

Foreword

In November of 2003, it was my honor to accept the position of Director of the Delaware Agricultural Statistics Service. Many thanks go to my predecessor, Thomas Feurer, who spent the previous 13 years working with the Delaware agricultural community in providing useful statistical information in support of Delaware agriculture and the goals and mission of the Delaware Department of Agriculture.

Our mission is to provide relevant, timely, accurate statistics in service to agriculture. The data presented in this publication are used to administer many of the USDA farm programs that are currently available, in determining the feasibility of new ventures affecting farmers and their products, and in directing research programs designed to enhance Delaware's farm economy. Agricultural statistics have historically been primarily used by producers, commodity organizations, government officials, and many others in the agricultural community to make informed decisions and recommendations on issues and topics in agriculture. This is still the primary use, but as the number of farms continues to decline while population continues to increase, agricultural statistics have become vital in promoting the importance and benefits of agriculture to government officials and the non-farm population.

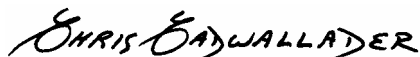
I look forward to working with the agricultural producers and businesses in Delaware to collect and publish accurate statistical information which decision makers will use to help and support the agricultural community in Delaware.

This issue of Delaware Agricultural Statistics Summary includes results from the 2002 Census of Agriculture, the most comprehensive source of information available on agriculture. The data presented in this bulletin are the direct result of, and only made possible by, the voluntary cooperation of our Delaware farmers and agribusinesses that have taken the time to respond to our surveys. We extend our sincere appreciation to them.

I would also like to thank the Delaware Department of Agriculture, Michael T. Scuse, Secretary, for providing the funding for this publication.

Also, special thanks goes to Hope Harris for providing outstanding technical expertise in the preparation of this bulletin.

I hope the information contained within this bulletin helps show the reader how agriculture changes, how diverse it is, and how very important it is to all Delawareans.



Chris Cadwallader
Director
Delaware Agricultural Statistics Service